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DE JARNETT FAMILY

The earliest mention of the DeJarnett family so far discovered in the extant records of Virginia, is in the register of Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County, where the baptisms of six children of John and Mary DeJarnett (the name being variously spelled Dejurner, Dejurer, Dejernat and Dejurnat) were recorded between August, 1704, and November, 1720; these entries are as follows:

Elias, son of John and Mary, Dejurner, baptized August 20, 1704.

John, son of John and Mary Dejurner, baptized November 4, 1706.

Mary, daughter of John and Mary Dejurer, baptized February 5, 1708.

Daniel, son of John Dejurner, baptized January 24, 1713.

Joseph, son of John and Mary Dejernat baptized February 3, 1716.

Ellenor, daughter of John Dejurnat, born September 5, and baptized November 20, 1720.*

The destruction of the court records of Gloucester County prevents any discovery from that source of any data relative to this family, while circumstantial evidence points to an early exodus of the DeJarnett's from Gloucester and their settlement in counties to the west: New Kent, King William and later Caroline;† several members of the family having made a much wider departure from the original home by going across James River and into the "up country;" Prince Edward County, which later became the point of departure for the migratory spirits of the race to the extreme southern part of Virginia and to North Carolina.

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* The Abingdon Parish Register (which is unindexed) has been examined down to the year 1729 without discovering any further DeJarnett items.

† The court records of New Kent County were all destroyed and the Register of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent, 1680-1787, and the Vestry Book of the same parish, 1682-1758, afford no data relative to this family; the fragments of records in King William and the order books (the only remaining colonial records) of Caroline County have not been examined.

The records of Virginia Land Patents, 1623-1774 afford only three grants to persons of this name:

(1) 1750, July 12, Mumford *Dejarnett** was granted 400 acres in Amelia County on the upper side of Mountain Creek (Patent Book 29, p. 262).

(2) 1759, May 12, Daniel *Dejernat,* was granted 280 acres in Amelia County on lower side of Mountain Creek (Patent Book 34, p. 232).

(3) 1772, August 1, James Dejarnett was granted 174 acres in Halifax County (Patent Book 40, p. 835).

The following are abstracts of DeJarnett wills in Prince Edward County:

1754, September 11, was dated the will of *Daniel Dejarnett,* of *Nottaway Parish, Prince Edward County,* devising to *wife Martia* [Martha?] a child's part of movables and privilege of houses and 100 acres with plantation; to *daughter Mary* land on Snales Creek and £30 currency with what she already has, (line of Elias Ford's land mentioned); to *daughter Bety Ford,* £20 currency; if either of these [Mary or Bety Ford] die without heirs the other to have her portion; to *son Daniel,* land on Sandy River, smith's tools, and his equal part of my estate; *to son Mumford,* 400 acres on Mountain Creek, and his equal part of my estate; and if either of these die without heirs other shall

* The "source" from which was derived the name Mumford as a baptismal name in the De Jarnett family is not at the present time positively known and there are "loose ends" in the chain of circumstantial evidence which makes it seem advisable not to put that forth at this writing. It is not ever the wisest or the safest thing to press too far the use of a surname as a baptismal name as "evidence" of a family connection when there are no other facts known by which to substantiate the claim. There was, however, living in Gloucester County, and in Abingdon Parish, contemporaneously with the De Jarnetts, a family of Mumfords (a name also spelled Munford), and it was probably from this source that the name Mumford came into the De Jarnett family, though whether on account of relationship or friendship is not at the present time known.

possess his part; to *son John,* land below road beginning at Watson's line and his equal part of my estate; to *Son Christopher,* land on Sandy River and Snale's Creek and an equal part of my estate; if either of these die without heirs the other to have his part; to *daughter Lidia,* 280 acres on Mountain Creek and equal part of my estate; to *daughter Martha,* one negro and her equal part of estate; if either of these die without heirs other to have her part; the girls portion not to be paid until they are 20 years of age. Executors *wife Martha* [Martia?], Richard Perryman and James Davenport. Witnesses Jacob Mackgehee,, Henry Johnson, Catherine Davenport. An appraisement of the estate of Daniel Dejarnett, made December, 1755, amounted to £313, 10s, 6d.

1765, April 24, was dated the will of *Mary* M (her mark) *Dejarnat,* of *St. Patrick's Parish, Prince Edward County,* by which she devised to *son in law Jacob McGehee,* my feather bed, with the whole furniture and bedstead, likewise whatever belongs to me after my decease. Jacob McGehee, sole executor. Witnesses: Christopher Ford, James Garden. Probated August 19, 1765. (Prince Edward County Records). An appraisement of the personalty of Mary Dejarant's estate, amounted to £12: 7s, 6d.

1768, August 9, was dated the will of *Elias Dejarnat,* of St. Patrick's Parish, Prince Edward County; debts and funeral charges to be paid; to *wife Elizabeth,* all estate during life and after her death to be sold and ½ of the money arising from sale thereof to testator's *daughter Rebecca Dejarnat,* and other ½ to be divided between testator's *son Elias Dejarnat* and testator's *daughter Marrymiah,* wife of James Hinds; to *son John Thomas Dejarnat,* estate formerly given him; to *son Elias Dejarnat,* estate formerly given him; to *son Thomas Dejarnat,* land whereon testator lives containing 149 acres being part of tract granted by patent to George Bagley in February, 1768, lying in Prince Edward County, and all wearing apparel. Executors: Miller Woodson and John Bass. Witnesses, Miller Woodson, Josiah Pace. Probated July 1769 (Prince Edward County Records).

1780, January 3, was dated the will of *Martha Dejarnatt, of Prince Edward County,* devising to *son Christopher,* two negros, furniture he may have in his possession at my decease, except feather bed which I give to my *grandson John Taylor, to daughter Betty Ford Crenshaw,* use of a negro girl and after her death to my said daughter's children and should she die leaving no issue then the said negro to the two daughters of my *daughter Lydia Taylor;* have sold a negro to my *son Christopher* for 2000 weight of tobacco which to be put at interest and equally divided between the children of my *two deceased daughters Martha Perryman and Lydia Taylor;* all my other children not herein mentioned have received their portions; executors son Christopher Dejarnett and my brother Christopher Ford. Probated March 16, 1782 (Prince Edward County Records).

1783, April 23, was dated the will of *Elias Dejernat of Halifax County,* which made bequests to daughters Frances, Hannah, Elizabeth, Sarah and Nancy Dejernat, son Reuben Dejernat; wife Sarah Dejernat; mother Elizabeth Dejernat; sister Annaka Dejernat. Executors, Thomas Dejernat of Halifax County and James Hines of Charlotte County. Witnesses, Nathaniel Hall, John Hall, Ursley Hall (Halifax County Records).

1788, April 11 was dated the will of *John Thomas Dejarnett,* of *Prince Edward County;* no appraisement of estate to be made; all just debts to be paid out of crop on hand; devises to *son Reuben Dejarnett,* one negro of £35 value; to *son John Dejarnett,* one negro £60 value, to *son Bowler Dejarnett,* land which *my father* gave me and land purchased from James Jennings and part from Josiah Ellington; to *son Stephen Dejarnett* and *son Elias Dejarnett,* other part of land purchased of Ellington; the negros and residue of my estate to be kept together for support and education of my children; to *daughter Elizabeth Dejarnett,* choice of all my young negros; to daughters Nancy, Milly, Dicey, and Polly Dejarnett, a general division choice of the remainder of my young negros, *son Bowler Dejarnett,* to have care of children and plantation. Executors, friends Simeon Walton and John Bass and my sons Bowler and John Dejarnett. Witnesses: Richard Winn, John Foulks (son of Joseph), Spencer Griffen. Probated April 20, 1789 (Prince Edward County Records).

The data given in the above abstracts would seem to account for Mary De Jarnett (wife of John De Jarnett, of Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County) and three of the children of the said John and Mary De Jarnett, *viz.: Elias,* who was baptized August 20, 1704; *Daniel,* Baptized January 24, 1713; and *Eleanor* (*Ellenor*) born September 5 and baptized November 20, 1720* What became finally of the other three children of John and Mary De Jarnett, of Abingdon Parish, viz.: *John,* baptized November 4, 1706, *Mary,* baptized February 5, 1708; and *Joseph,* baptized February 3, 1716, is not at present known. *Then there may have been also other children born to John and Mary De Jarnett, the records of whose births and subsequent lives have been lost.* There was a Mumford De Jarnett who had a patent for land in Amelia (afterwards Prince Edward County) in July, 1750, who (if he may not be identified hereafter as Mumford, son of Daniel De Jarnett, of Prince Edward County who died in 1754 or '55—see abstract of will ante page 269) may have been a son of John and Mary De Jarnett, born post 1720.

There are no data at hand with which to work out these problems.†

Descending from John and Mary De Jarnett, of Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County, was also, no doubt, the De Jarnette family of Caroline County, Virginia, which has numbered many distinguished persons, both in men of the name and in men whose mothers bore the name. The records of wills and deeds in Caroline County (which was formed in 1727 from Essex, King and Queen and King William Counties) have been destroyed and the remaining order books of the court have not been examined for De Jarnett data.

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* See statement quoted in McGehee notes, page 284, that Eleanor De Jarnett (who married Jacob McGehee) was *born* 1717, which is evidently an error, for Eleanor, wife of Jacob McGehee, is "identified" by Mary De Jarnett's calling (in her will 1765) Jacob McGehee her *"son-in-law."*

† There are many De Jarnett deeds in the Prince Edward records, among them one of John De Jarnett of Anson County, North Carolina in 1784. This John De Jarnett was no doubt ancestor of the family of that name resident in North Carolina.

The tradition in the De Jarnette family of Caroline County carries the line back to a certain Joseph De Jarnette "one of three brothers Joseph, James and Daniel, who emigrated from Rochelle, France, to Norfolk, Virginia; Joseph located near Norfolk, James around Danville and Daniel went to Kentucky." Here we have the proverbial "three brothers" and the common form of the tradition which may be summarily dismissed as the traditional distortion of a very probably kernel of truth.

There was a son *Joseph* (baptized February 3, 1716) among the children of John and Mary De Jarnett, of Abingdon Parish, Gloucester County. Let us raise the question: May not Joseph De Jarnette, ancestor of the Caroline County family, have been one and the same with (or a son of) Joseph, son of John and Mary De Jarnett of Gloucester County? There are no data at hand for proving the matter and the destruction of records in Gloucester, King and Queen, King William and Caroline may prevent even an eventual solution of the problem, but it is well worth consideration.

In the absence of public and private records with which to prove this connection it will not be amiss to state the tradition and the verified facts in possession of members of the De Jarnette family of Caroline County.

"Joseph De Jarnette was father of James De Jarnette who was father of Joseph De Jarnette who married Mary Hampton," so runs the tradition. From this point we have verified facts. Joseph and Mary (Hampton) De Jarnette, of Spring Grove, Caroline County had issue: (1) Elliott Hawes De Jarnette, born at "Spring Grove" in 1790; died, "Pine Forest," Spotsylvania County, in 1857; a large planter; sheriff and treasurer of Spotsylvania County. He married Elizabeth Coleman;* (2) Joseph

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* Elliott Hawes De Jarnette (1790-1857) married Elizabeth Coleman and had issue: (a) Betty, wife of William Hart, of Albemarle County; (b) Doctor Joseph Spencer De Jarnette, of Spotsylvania, who married Nannie Quisenberry; (c) Mary Hampton, wife of Doctor Nelson Waller; (d) Huldah, wife of James D. Coleman; (e) Louise, wife of Daniel Coleman De Jarnette; (f) Caroline, wife of John Hampton De Jarnette (son of Daniel De Jarnette, above); (g) Lucy Ann, wife of Philip Dew;

De Jarnette, of Caroline County; (3) Daniel De Jarnette, of Caroline County† who was father of Honorable Daniel Coleman De Jarnette (1822-1881) member of the United States and Confederate States Congresses; (4) a daughter who married Mr. Withers; (5) a daughter who married Samuel Coleman.

WILLIAM CLAYTON TORRENCE.

(h) James De Jarnette, who married Lucy Mary Herndon; (i) Elliott Hawes De Jarnette, of Caroline County, born June 6, 1839, died April 27, 1913. Captain of Company I, 30th Virginia Regiment, C. S. A., who married Eva Magruder (a gifted writer) and had issue: (1) Caroline Hampton, wife of William L. Keyser; (2) Joseph Spencer De Jarnette, Superintendent of the Western State Hospital, married Chertsy Hopkins; (3) May, wife of James M. Marshall; (4) Henry Magruder De Jarnette, M. D., of Fredericksburg; (5) Evelyn Magruder; (6) Elliott Hawes De Jarnette, of Orange, married Margaret Averill; (7) Sallie Watson, wife of John D. Micks; (8) Horatio Erskine De Jarnette, of Princeton, W. Va., married Bessie Beckwith.

† Daniel De Jarnette, of Caroline County married *first,* Jane Coleman; *second,* Huldah Coleman (both daughters of Spencer Coleman) and had issue: (a) Robert E. De Jarnette; (b) John Hampton De Jarnette married Caroline De Jarnette; (c) Hon. Daniel Coleman De Jarnette married Louise De Jarnette; (d) Elizabeth Goodwin, wife of William S. Quisenberry; (e) Annie Hawes, wife of Daniel Hoge; (f) Caroline Harriss, wife of Judge Samuel G. Staples; (g) Jane Coleman, wife of George Tyler; (h) Lucinda, died unmarried.

For the data relative to the Caroline County branch of the De Jarnette family the Editors are indebted to Elliott H. De Jarnette, Esquire, of Orange, Virginia.